

curable. These children and families proceeding to SCT present with a different perspective from malignant disorders. This produces a situation of heightened stress and risk for poor retention of SCT guidelines. Subjects: NM disorders that benefit from SCT include but are not limited to; metabolic storage disorders, hemoglobinopathies, immune deficiency disorders, and neurodegenerative disorders. Aim: Attain information from experts on needs and content desired in a mobile technology educational tool. The findings will be utilized to develop a mobile educational tool.

**Methods, Intervention, & Analysis:** Qualitative focus groups will be conducted consisting of two arms: 1. experts in the field of pediatric SCT and 2. Parents of children who have undergone SCT. Post-SCT care needs will be discussed. Concerns such as need to individualize an application (app) for SCT date, educational reminders to supplement initial education, and other recommendations for a useful mobile app in the NM SCT pediatric patient population will be explored. A sample size of 5 - 10 health care providers within the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium (PBMTTC) and 3 - 4 parents of children who have undergone SCT. Saturation of results will be utilized to determine the exact sample size. Expert subjects will be recruited at the fall PBMTTC meeting. Parent focus group will be recruited from snowball recruitment.

**Findings & Interpretation:** Qualitative focus groups findings will be analyzed and stratified based on professional or parent. The results will be utilized for development of the SCT app.

**Discussion & Implications:** The findings from the qualitative interviews will provide insight into a post SCT app contents for children and parents.

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### Determining the value of weekly surveillance blood cultures as a screening tool for occult bloodstream infection for post allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) patients on Prednisone

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**Topic Significance & Study Purpose/Background/Rationale:** Bloodstream infection is a significant complication following allogeneic HSCT. The use of corticosteroids in this patient population may mask an inflammatory response indicating an infectious process. This can cause a delay in the initiation of antibiotics, leading to potentially fatal consequences. Our current standard is to obtain a weekly surveillance blood culture on patients receiving Prednisone. The purpose of this project was to validate if by obtaining weekly blood cultures on patients receiving Prednisone, we effectively screened for occult bloodstream infections. Additionally, we wanted to determine: What type of pathogens (bacterial and fungal) are most prevalent? Is the dose of Prednisone a determinant for weekly surveillance?

A review of the literature revealed three relevant studies. The studies support performing surveillance cultures to reveal occult blood stream infections, but didn't include the use of Prednisone and if the mg/kg dosing made a difference. The results of this project would have a direct impact on our oncology nursing practice.

**Methods, Intervention, & Analysis:** Quantitative data of blood culture results was collected from 8/2011-9/2012.

**Findings & Interpretation:** A total of 20 patients were on Prednisone and had weekly surveillance cultures. Characteristics of the patients screened included: Eight females and

12 males with a wide variety of hematologic malignancies undergoing conventional, t-cell depleted and cord blood transplants. The median dose of Prednisone prescribed in patients who were surveillance culture positive was 0.54mg/kg/day (0.09-1.4mg/kg/day) vs. 0.42mg/kg/day (0.09-1.1mg/kg/day) who were culture negative. 15 separate surveillance cultures were found to be positive. Among these, seven were Coagulase negative staphylococcus, five were Enterobacter cloacae, one with E. coli, one with Moraxella Osloensis and one was found to be Pseudomonas Aeruginosa.

**Discussion & Implications:** As per the findings, 75% of surveillance culture results were found positive. The most common organism was Coagulase negative staph (50%), followed by Enterobacter cloacae (33%). Skin associated bacteria were found to be the most common. The median dose of Prednisone was higher in patients who were surveillance culture positive. Therefore, these findings suggest that patients who are on 0.5mg/kg/day of corticosteroids or higher should be considered for weekly surveillance culture monitoring.

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### An Investigation of the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Nurses Perception of Palliative Care

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#### Topic Significance & Study Purpose/Background/Rationale:

Pediatric bone marrow transplant patients (BMT) are faced with life-threatening illnesses that affect their physical, psychosocial, emotional, cultural and spiritual beings. Palliative care can benefit these patients and families whether the overall goals of care are to cure, prolong life, decrease suffering or ease the pain of bereavement. The specialty nurses who care for these patients and their perception of palliative care has rarely been studied. This pilot study investigated the nurses' perception of palliative care in the BMT setting.

**Methods, Intervention, & Analysis:** A semi-structured on-line survey was emailed to BMT nurses. Response rate to the survey was 42% (n=15). The survey examined the definition of palliative care, role in BMT setting, optimal time of implementation and perceived impacts on patients and families. Examples of the coding scheme are illustrated in Figure 1.

**Findings & Interpretation:** Nurses aged from 18-54 years (Figure 2), majority (n=12, 80%) were bachelor prepared and had 1 to 15 years of experience. 96 responses were analyzed. Thirteen (87%) of nurses defined palliative care as comfort care. Approximately half (47%) identified palliative care as useful only at the end of life. The perception of the role of palliative care varied considerably. Examples include; managing pain control physical support, decreasing anxiety, mediator between teams, and increasing perceived family control. Providing end of life care as the most frequently identified role.

**Discussion & Implications:** This study illustrates the BMT nurses varying definition and perception of palliative care within pediatric BMT. The notion that palliative care can only be useful at end of life was compelling. Results from this study provide an opportunity to develop increased educational intervention and increase nursing knowledge surrounding palliative care. Additional research is needed to formulate a more accurate and consistent definition of palliative care and its role before, during and after transplant.